

REMARKS

Status of Case

Claims 4-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Claims 4-6, 8-11, 13-19, and 22 have been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

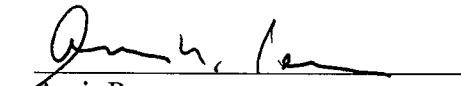
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-18 contain allowable subject matter and for the allowance of claims 19-22. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have rewritten claim 4 in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, claims 4-22 are in condition for allowance.

Please note that the cancellation of claims 1-3 is not being presented for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*), *overruled in part*, 535 U.S. 722 (2002). Further, claims 4-22 are currently presented in their original scope and have been amended only to incorporate features of the originally presented independent claims.

Conclusion

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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